

## Social Security Administration

## §416.1222

that were acquired or are held for their value or as an investment because we do not consider these to be personal effects. Such items can include but are not limited to: Gems, jewelry that is not worn or held for family significance, or collectibles. Such items will be subject to the limits in §416.1205.

[70 FR 6345, Feb. 7, 2005]

### §416.1218 Exclusion of the automobile.

(a) *Automobile; defined.* As used in this section, the term *automobile* includes, in addition to passenger cars, other vehicles used to provide necessary transportation.

(b) *Limitation on automobiles.* In determining the resources of an individual (and spouse, if any), automobiles are excluded or counted as follows:

(1) *Total exclusion.* One automobile is totally excluded regardless of value if it is used for transportation for the individual or a member of the individual's household.

(2) *Other automobiles.* Any other automobiles are considered to be nonliquid resources. Your equity in the other automobiles is counted as a resource. (See §416.1201(c).)

[40 FR 48915, Oct. 20, 1975, as amended at 44 FR 43266, July 24, 1979; 50 FR 42687, Oct. 22, 1985; 70 FR 6345, Feb. 7, 2005]

### §416.1220 Property essential to self-support; general.

When counting the value of resources an individual (and spouse, if any) has, the value of property essential to self-support is not counted, within certain limits. There are different rules for considering this property depending on whether it is income-producing or not. Property essential to self-support can include real and personal property (for example, land, buildings, equipment and supplies, motor vehicles, and tools, etc.) used in a trade or business (as defined in §404.1066 of part 404), nonbusiness income-producing property (houses or apartments for rent, land other than home property, etc.) and property used to produce goods or services essential to an individual's daily activities. Liquid resources other than those used as part of a trade or business are not property essential to self-support. If the individual's principal

place of residence qualifies under the home exclusion, it is not considered in evaluating property essential to self-support.

[50 FR 42687, Oct. 22, 1985]

### §416.1222 How income-producing property essential to self-support is counted.

(a) *General.* When deciding the value of property used in a trade or business or nonbusiness income-producing activity, only the individual's equity in the property is counted. We will exclude as essential to self-support up to \$6,000 of an individual's equity in income-producing property if it produces a net annual income to the individual of at least 6 percent of the excluded equity. If the individual's equity is greater than \$6,000, we count only the amount that exceeds \$6,000 toward the allowable resource limit specified in §416.1205 if the net annual income requirement of 6 percent is met on the excluded equity. If the activity produces less than a 6-percent return due to circumstances beyond the individual's control (for example, crop failure, illness, etc.), and there is a reasonable expectation that the individual's activity will again produce a 6-percent return, the property is also excluded. If the individual owns more than one piece of property and each produces income, each is looked at to see if the 6-percent rule is met and then the amounts of the individual's equity in all of those properties producing 6 percent are totaled to see if the total equity is \$6,000 or less. The equity in those properties that do not meet the 6-percent rule is counted toward the allowable resource limit specified in §416.1205. If the individual's total equity in the properties producing 6-percent income is over the \$6,000 equity limit, the amount of equity exceeding \$6,000 is counted as a resource toward the allowable resource limit.

*Example 1.* Sharon has a small business in her home making hand-woven rugs. The looms and other equipment used in the business have a current market value of \$7,000. The value of her equity is \$5,500 since she owes \$1,500 on the looms. Sharon's net earnings from self-employment is \$400. Since Sharon's equity in the looms and other equipment (\$5,500) is under the \$6,000 limit